

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in Nisqually (Leschi) Water System

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as water system users, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took 8 samples for Coliform Bacteria during October. Two (2) of those samples showed the presence of Coliform Bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so. One repeat sample taken also showed Coliform Bacteria.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Total Coliform Bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. **Coliforms are Bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, Bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.**

Usually, Coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect Coliform Bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other Bacteria of greater concern, such as *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these Bacteria in our subsequent testing.**

What is being done?

Public Works cleaned and disinfected the sampling tap that was determined to be contaminated from outside sources and not your drinking water. Further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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